non-officials and when he replied that he wanted notice for the same, is he not in duty bound to supply the information on a subsequent question being put with due notice?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—From the mere fact that notice was required by Government on a particular matter, it does not mean that Government would give the information in a subsequent question.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— Will not the answering of this question disclose a large number of important problems on which Government have not been able to supply statistics here?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—It may do so. It will depend upon whether information is sought for on a large number of subjects.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Even the other day it was seen that a large number of questions have been shelved like this.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—No question is shelved.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Can this information be supplied next time since they stated in the House that special arrangements have been made in the Huzur Secretariat to meet the demand?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.— I must state that the new department which is started is intended to collect statistics which in the opinion of Government are likely to be useful. In this case Government consider that the trouble they have to incur will not be, as stated in the answer, commensurate with the results.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What is the particular instance noted by the Law Member ?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I have nothing to say more than what is contained in the answer.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—The Hon'ble Member was saying ever so many things. Will the Government kindly change the grammatical construction of this answer? Because now-a-days we do not write .....

Posting of Government Officers near to their native places.

217. **Mr. P. Raman Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

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(a) whether there is any convention, rule or understanding that school teachers should be posted as near to their native places as possible;

(b) is this rule being strictly followed;

(c) whether the Government are willing to extend the same concession to the minor officers of the other departments also?

Mr. I. N. Menon.— (a) There is no convention or rule but it is the principle on which postings are usually made.

(b) This principle is followed as far as possible. There are usually numerous applicants for transfer to the same station and it is obviously not possible to satisfy all of them.

(c) May be extended if and when found possible.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Especially in the case of female teachers is it not absolutely essential that they should be posted near their native places?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I agree with that. As a matter of fact every effort is made in that direction. There is more than one applicant for the same place. Then we have to provide one for some time and after some time revert that person and send the other person. That is always done.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—There will be neighbouring schools to which lady teachers may be given preference.

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I assure the Hon'ble Member that it has been the aim of the Department. If there has been any unconscious deviation from that I am certain that if it is brought to my notice it will be rectified.

Law of libel—amendments to.

218. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Adverting to the provisions in the English Law of Libel, namely, 'But although libel is a criminal offence as well as an actionable wrong, a man whose private character has been attacked should not institute criminal proceedings unless the words are of a kind calculated to provoke a breach of the peace. If he does so, the judge will direct the grand jury to throw out the bill of indictment and leave the prosecutor to pursue his civil remedy' (Vide page 998, Volume 13, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Fourteenth Edition), will the Government state (a) why our Law has not been brought into line with the said provision ;

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